What is claimed is:

1. A method for treating chronic wounds comprising:

applying a nonpyrogenic, biocompatible microbial-derived cellulose dressing to a chronic wound of a subject.

2. The method for treating chronic wounds of claim 1 comprising the additional stop of:

changing the dressing once weekly.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the microbial-derived cellulose dressing comprising from about 3% to about 7% cellulose by weight.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the microbial-derived cellulose dressing comprising from about 4% to about 6% cellulose by weight.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein said chronic wound is a full or partial thickness chronic wound.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the chronic wound is a venous ulcer.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the chronic wound is a pressure ulcer.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the chronic wound is a diabetic ulcer.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the microbial–derived cellulose dressing exhibits a negative result in the Limulus Amebocyte Lysate (LAL) test (<0.5 EU/ml) and is thereby nonpyrogenic.

10. The method of claim 1 wherein the microbial-derived cellulose exhibits a negative primary irritation test in rabbits and a negative cytotoxicity test using murine L929 cells, passes a guinea pig sensitization test and is thereby biocompatible.

11. The method of claim 1 wherein the microbial-derived cellulose dressing donates about 50% to about 90% of its liquid weight and absorbs about 20% to about 200% of its weight.

12. A microbial-derived cellulose dressing comprising about 1.5 to about 9 wt.% of cellulose.

13. The microbial-derived cellulose dressing of claim 11 comprising about 3 to about 7 wt.% of cellulose.

14. The microbial-derived cellulose dressing of claim 12 comprising about 4 to about 6 wt.% of cellulose.

15. The microbial-derived cellulose dressing of claim 11, which is shaped into the form of a wound.

16. The microbial-derived cellulose dressing of claim 11, which exhibits a negative Limulus Amebocyte Lysate (LAL) test (<0.5 EU/ml) and is thereby nonpyrogenic.

17. The microbial-derived cellulose dressing of claim 11, which exhibits a negative primary irritation test in rabbits and a negative cytotoxicity test using murine L929 cells, passes a guinea pig sensitisation test and is thereby biocompatible.

18. The microbial-derived cellulose dressing of claim 11, which donates about 50 to about 90 % of its liquid weight to a dry substrate, and absorbs about 20 to about 200 % of its weight.

19. A method for preparing a microbial-derived cellulose dressing comprising:

statically producing a microbial cellulose pellicle using *Acetobacter xylinum*;

isolating the pellicle with a cellulose to water ratio in the range of about 1:100 to about 1:500;

and drying the isolated pellicle to a cellulose content of 1.5 to 9 wt.%.

20. A kit comprising:

a) a microbial-derived cellulose comprising about 1.5 to about 9 wt.% of cellulose;

b) a moisture proof package containing said microbial-derived cellulose; and

c) instructions for applying the microbial-derived cellulose to a chronic wound.

21. The kit of claim 19, wherein the microbial-derived cellulose comprises about 3 to about 7 % cellulose.

22. The kit of claim 20, wherein the microbial-derived cellulose comprises about 4% to about 6 % cellulose.

23. The kit of claim 19 which is sterilized by gamma irradiation.

24. The kit of claim 19 which is sterilized by electron beam sterilization.

25. The kit of claim 19, wherein the moisture-proof package containing the microbial-derived cellulose comprises an aluminum plastic-coated heat sealable chevron pouch.

26. A method of claim 1, wherein the dressing promotes autolytic debridement and removal of necrotic tissue in chronic wounds.

27. A method of claim 1, wherein the dressing is better in cleansing the wound margin s and promoting epithelial migration.

28. A method of claim 1 wherein a lower median number of days are required to attain 75% or more granulation than for a chronic wound treated with non-adhesive gauze dressing.

29. A method of claim 1, wherein a lower median number of days is required to attain 50% or more epithelialization than for a chronic wound treated with non-adhesive gauze dressing.

30. A method of claim 1, wherein the level of pain experienced by the subject ranges from none to mild.

31. A method of claim 1, wherein the level of pain experienced by the subject is less than that which is experienced by a subject treated with non-adhesive gauze dressing.